Spread of 'Hanta Virus'

1132. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govenment are aware about the surfacing of 'Hanta Virus' a deadly life threatening disease in the country;

(b) if so, the number and details of such cases;

(c) the details of the treatment of the patients; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to prevent its surfacing in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) As per the information received from Indian Council of Medical Research, recent study conducted by the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore and published in Indian Journal of Medical Research is the first report of the presence of Hanta Virus infection in humans in India. The 'Study for Serological evidence of Hanta virus infection in human population in South India' was done on serum samples from 152 fever patients showing symptoms of dengue and leptospirosis. Out of these patients, 23 were found positive for Anti-Hanta virus IgM. Inaddition, 87 blood donors were also studied in which 5.7% were found to be positive for Anti-Hanta virus IgM. These findings indicate the possibility of the presence of Hantavirus infection in India.

There is no specific treatment for Hanta virus infection, only symptomatic and supportive therapy is provided. However, Ribavinn is found to be effective in complicated infections of Hanta virus.

Withdrawal of recognition to medical degrees from erstwhile U.S.S.R.

1133. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian students who had obtained medical degrees from the colleges in erstwhile U.S.S.R.;

(b) whether Government are aware that a large number of such students did not even have any science subjects in 10+2 examination, which is compulsory for such students;

(c) whether it is a fact that M.C.I. had recommended the withdrawal of recognition of degrees of those institutions; and

(d) if so, the action Government had taken thereon?